

## Massachusetts CTE Teacher Testing Program Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the cost of the written exam?

The fees for the written exam are as follows:

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Non-Refundable Registration Fee (applicable for each registration)  | \$50.00  |
| Written Exam Fee  | \$125.00 |
| Written Exam Retake Fee   | \$125.00 |
| Refund Processing Fee   | \$25.00  |
| Rescore Fee: In the instance of an exam being scored with incorrect candidate provided information, the candidate will be subject to a rescore fee for necessary corrections. | \$20.00  |

### What is the cost of the performance exam?

The fees for the performance exam are as follows:

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Non-Refundable Registration Fee   | \$50.00  |
| Performance Exam Fee  | \$250.00 |
| Refund Processing Fee   | \$25.00  |
| Rescore Fee<br>In the instance of an exam being scored with incorrect candidate provided information, the candidate will be subject to a rescore fee for necessary corrections. | \$20.00  |

### If I previously passed the written exam at Greater Lowell, do I have to retake the written test with NOCTI?

No. If you have previously taken and passed the written exam through Greater Lowell Regional Technical School, then you may register for the performance with NOCTI when an exam session is available. NOCTI will confirm with DESE your passing score on the written test prior to finalizing your performance exam registration.

### I previously passed the written and performance exams at Greater Lowell but have not yet earned my Preliminary license. Do I need to re-take the written and performance exam through NOCTI?

No. If you have previously taken and passed the exams through Greater Lowell, you do not need to retake them with NOCTI. The Licensure Office will have record of your passing scores and will add them to your application accordingly. However, know that if you choose to pursue a license in another field, (for instance, if you hold an Automotive Technology, 9-14, license and decide to pursue an Automotive Collision and Repair, 9-14, license), then you will need to take the appropriate exams for the new license field with NOCTI.

**I am applying for a teaching license in a field that also requires an occupational license issued by another agency (e.g. Cosmetology). Am I still required to take the written and performance exam?**

*Yes. Achieving a passing score on the written and performance exam is still required even if the applicant holds licenses/certifications that required testing from other agencies.*

**I passed the written exam but then failed the performance exam. Do I need to retake the written exam before I may retake the performance exam?**

*No. Once you have passed the written exam, you do not need to retake it. If you fail the performance exam, you may retake the performance exam.*

**Can I take the exam at home, online, or do I have to visit a test center?**

*Remote proctoring is required for all written exams. Please refer to the testing handbook on the NOCTI website for additional information on the remote proctoring procedure.*

*Administration of the performance exam must be completed onsite at a DESE approved Massachusetts Area Testing Center (MATC) location.*

**How often can I take the exam?**

*There is no limit to the number of times that an educator can retake an exam. However, the retake policy requires a minimum of 45 days after the failed attempt.*

**I have a documented disability. How can I request a testing accommodation?**

*Candidates will be able to request testing accommodations at the time of registration. For additional information on policies/procedures on the matter please refer to the testing guidelines or contact NOCTI at: [nocti@nocti.org](mailto:nocti@nocti.org)*

**Is there exam preparation material, such as a practice/sample exam that I can review?**

*Content outlines are available on the [Massachusetts page](#) of the NOCTI website. These outlines provide an overview of the written and performance exams with sample questions and a reference list.*

**How long will it take for me to get my exam results?**

*A score report for the written exam is provided, via email, immediately upon completion of the exam session. NOCTI will provide exam results to DESE within 2 weeks of the exam.*

*A score report for the performance exam is provided, via email, within 2 business days after results are submitted to NOCTI by the Center Coordinator. NOCTI will provide exam results to DESE within 2 weeks of the receipt of exam results.*

**If I fail the exam by just a point or two, is there a way to have the exam rescored, appealed or go through an alternative assessment?**

*The MA CTE Teacher Testing Program appeal process is intended for use in the event of extenuating circumstances or exam irregularities to rectify any exam irregularities resulting from the possible incorrect and non-standardized administration of an exam. This process is not*

*for use to challenge the content of the exams as they are aligned with the MA CTE Frameworks. For more information on this process, please refer to the Testing Handbook.*

**I'm trying to expedite the issuance of my license. Can I submit the score report to the Licensing Office as proof that I passed the exam?**

*No. While we advise educators to keep a copy of their exam results for their personal records, the Licensure Office only accepts scores submitted by NOCTI as the official evidence of a passing score on the exam. The exam results will be submitted to the Licensure Office within 2 weeks of the exam being scored and at that point, the Licensure Office will update your license application.*

**I also need to take either the Communication and Literacy Skills Test or the Vocational Technical Literacy Skills Test. Do I sign up for these exams with NOCTI?**

*No. The proctoring of the CLST and the VTLST exams is handled by Pearson Education Inc. Information on these tests, including how to register for the test can be found here: [www.mtel.nesinc.com](http://www.mtel.nesinc.com)*

**Why do some titles have a cut score of 70% and others use a NOCTI criterion-referenced cut score?**

*Cut scores for the exams developed by DESE remain unchanged at 70%, as they have been in past years with the previous vendors. DESE has adopted several NOCTI performance exams for the program. NOCTI develops a criterion-referenced cut score for each exam, set by a group of subject matter experts (SMEs).*

**How does NOCTI determine their criterion-referenced cut score?**

*The concept underlying the criterion-referenced cut score sets the point on the exam at which a test taker could be considered a "minimally competent candidate," an industry-recognized term referring to a candidate who is sufficiently competent for a position in the chosen field. For NOCTI teacher performance tests, this is operationally defined as:*

*What a candidate should 1) know and 2) be able to do after three to five years on the job in order to perform duties in a safe and effective manner.*

**Why do the percentages of each standard/job not equal my total score?**

*In addition to a total score, a score for each standard of the written exam and each job in the performance exam is provided. The percentages for each standard or job reported on the score report will usually not average the total percentage score reported. This is because the different standards or jobs generally have different point values. For the written exam, not all standards have the same number of questions. For the performance exams, point values are assigned by SMEs during the development process due to differing complexity or importance. In summary, the individual standard or job percentages listed on the score report apply only to a particular standard or job. The total score applies to the test as a whole.*